Sunny conditions, good lighting, 950 Observer: Joan Humphrey, 733 M St. Davis CA Other observers: Benking, genry weinberger and others Sater reported by Skeve Barley and observed by many for longer looks - (last of ABA field trip) and other underparts including visacim Cland were yellow, then switched to white for belly one minute spread over 3 to 4 minuted. Crow Valley Campground, Painnee Grasslands. Time ~ 0850. Observation time: about The upperparts of the bird were solid colored Report on Yellow twoated Ucreo Sighting. 20 June 1990 A large virco about the size and shape of a Jigs b so I looked up the wingbarred views and got it's mame and went off to find more observers. Ben and genery agreed with the id, we had already eliminated many opicies and ad panding at Jone Print Bird Observatory, Ontaria on Red Eiged Philadelphia, Warbling Solitary Viceos and a few in hand white eyed viceos. I had only seen one yellow threated before Strufly, so I hed said it was an eastern kend of vies. also a bander and am well acquainted with Sen's geny wanted to call it a white-end line but I argued it had yellow spectraces and didit 100k "wild-englian white very divises do the of the other focks present offered a field guide and didn't remember it's name. Kuttonis, Solitary and Warkling Vireas from the Central California Region and grow time sperit confirmed as to what we saw and what to call it between head and tall but I forget just Trees where, Bird was dowly working through said the bid was dell yellow it ded not mysexperience level: Besides a buder Im love all that pale to me and I was not Just after bird had temporarily dissapeared we While many other observers that day

51-90-45

what I Saw?

Spectacles. It was not a complete eyering yeller being broken at lower front of eyen (and) tried to refind the bird. The bird had two white Solitary Vireo but with well marked yellow flesh or black - Kinda grayisk). It looked about the same size as the red-eyed wingbars and medium darkish legs (not pale, The chin, throat and down into breast areas

(no patterns) with a shift from nondramatic greenist dones to another dull color mee

comfortable with the others thus calling the bird a female ather than that it was pilent.

on 25 June I visited the Denversluseum and had the opportunity to view Visite skins. This confirmed to me that this is a correct identifier two and that I therefore the difference is color between birds that would allow me to call this bird a male of a gemale.

Sincerely, Jan Shimphier

Above double line written 20 gene. Below double line written 1 guly.

## YELLOW-THROATED VIREO

51-90-45 902 TO

## AT CROW VALLEY CAMPGROUND, WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

## 20 JUNE 1990

## DESCRIPTION BY STEPHEN F. BAILEY

Somewhat before 09:00 on 20 June 1990, Joan M. Humphrey discovered and identified a silent Yellow-throated Vireo in the trees of the Crow Valley Campground, Weld County, Colorado. The other observers at that time were Ben King and Jerry Weinberger.

Many others of us from Bus "D" of the ABA Convention field trip searched for this vireo in the same trees for about 30 minutes, without success. Eventually I played a hunch, which resulted in my refinding the Yellow-throated Vireo about 09:15. Not only were all 40 birders on Bus "D" able to see this bird, but another bus ("C"?) arrived in time to enjoy it before it disappeared for good. Thus about 80 birders saw this bird.

My hunch was that the vireo had moved to the trees above the orphaned Red Fox pup that was playing so entertainingly nearby. I was convinced that the vireo had moved to other trees (or departed the whole area). The most likely trees in which the vireo could be but not be noticed were those above the fox, because every birder under those trees was completely captivated by the fox; everybody looked down -- nobody looked up! Having already watched the fox for quite some time, I was then able to ignore it while searching these trees for the vireo. Within 2 minutes I refound the vireo above the fox, and I called everyone together to see it.

The vireo was moving silently through the crowns of the deciduous trees, foraging in a standard foliage-gleaning manner. On one occasion we saw it capture and eat a large moth. The bird easily held the moth with its relatively deep, hooked bill, then beat the moth a few times on a branch before gulping down the moth's body and head while the moth's wings fluttered down toward us.

The vireo looked medium-large for its genus, being a bit larger and much plumper than most wood warblers. The yellow throat, breast, and spectacles were obvious, as were the two bold white wing bars on each gray wing. A more detailed description follows.

The bill and eyes were all dark. The bill was quite deep even for a vireo's, and the entire culmen was curved, ending in the hooked tip. I saw no actual overhang of the hooked tip, however.

Most of the thick round head was yellowish-green. Within this base color the yellow spectacles were broad and diffuselybounded. The chin, throat, and breast were clean bright yellow, but not as bright as on many birds of this species. The belly, vent, and undertail coverts were unmarked white. The yellow and white blended along the breast/belly boundary, rather than forming a sharp line of contrast.

Behind the yellowish-green head and nape, the back was a

grayish-olive. The rump appeared grayer still, though this was only seen briefly as the bird foraged diagonally overhead. The wings were dark gray. Each had two bold white wing bars, formed by the white tips of the greater and median secondary coverts. The tertials were edged with white or whitish. The tail looked plain gray, without any real color pattern. Sometimes light shining through the outermost rectrix gave the false impression of a pale tail edge.

I believe that the legs and feet were dark (gray?), but as usual when viewing an arboreal passerine I forgot to note this specifically.

Due to the silence of this bird and its relatively dull colors (to my eye), I stated to the assembled birders that this individual was probably a female. In any case, the characters noted above confirm the species identification.

I have seen many Yellow-throated Vireos in eastern North America, plus one in California. I am a member of the California Bird Records Committee, Regional Editor for the Middle Pacific Coast Region of <u>American Birds</u>, and a 30-year active birder in North America.